



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

QUILCENE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

Helping Save the Lake Sammamish Kokanee



Lake Sammamish Male Kokanee caught in the field

Why at Quilcene National Fish Hatchery?

The Quilcene National Fish Hatchery is uniquely capable of raising fish eggs outside of the Quilcene watershed without introducing viruses and pathogens to Quilcene or to other watersheds because this hatchery has an isolation facility that receives pathogen-free well water, and has the appropriate equipment like egg trays and water chillers.

The Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group

In response to the decline the Lake Sammamish kokanee, a group of partners collaboratively formed the Lake Sammamish Kokanee Work Group. This work group has established a goal for preventing the extinction, rebuilding the population, and improving the health of the native kokanee population, such that it is viable and self-sustaining, and will in the future support fishery opportunities.



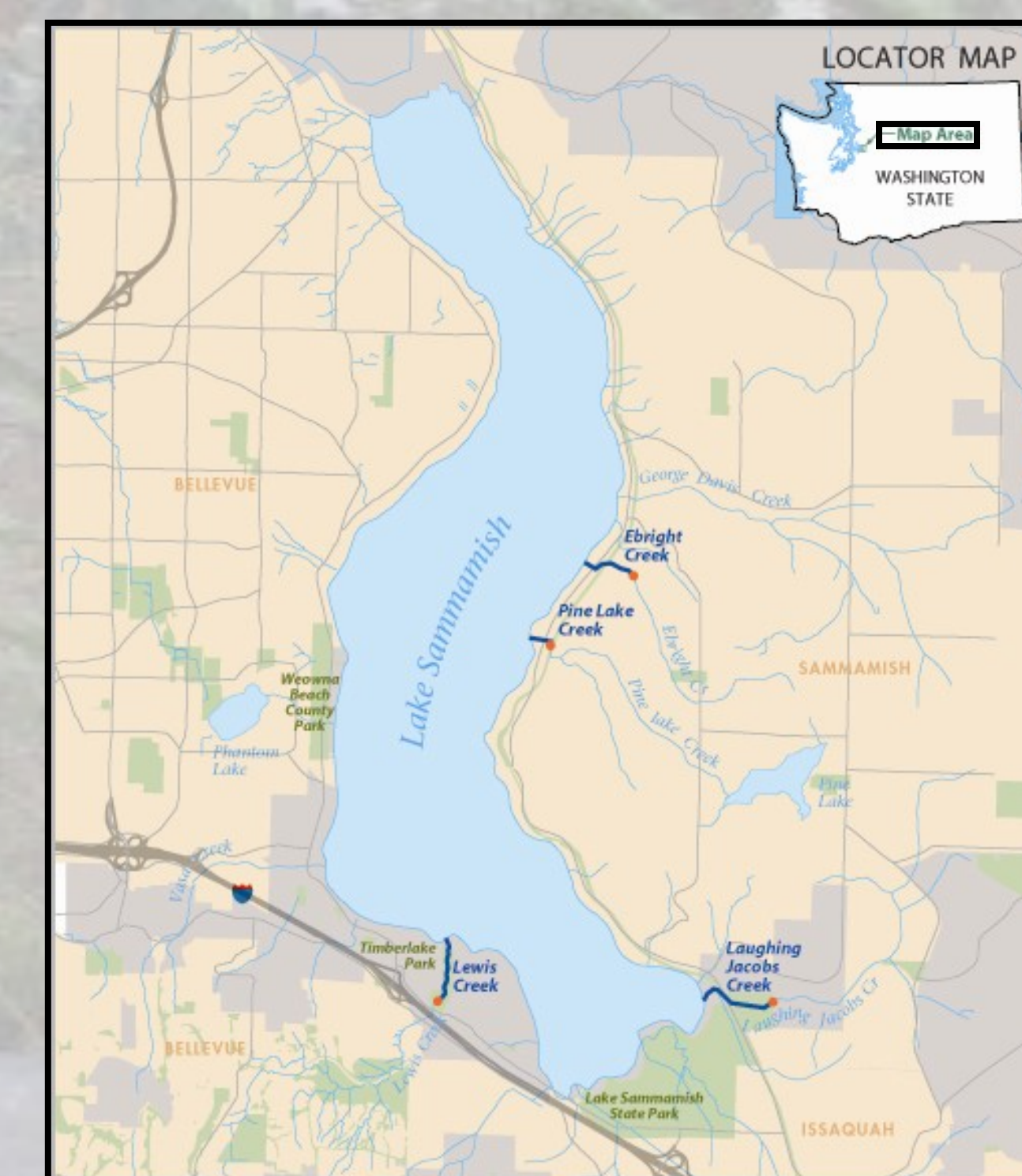
WDFW staff extracting milt from a Kokanee

Only one run left!

Once numbering in the tens of thousands, Lake Sammamish late-run kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) have experienced a precipitous decline during the latter half of the 20th century. Historically, spawning was observed from August through January, representing three distinct run timings, the early/summer-run, middle/fall-run, and winter/late-run. By 2001, the only spawning aggregations of kokanee in Lake Sammamish were considered to be late-run (November to January), spawning in only four tributaries, the Lewis, Laughing Jacobs, Pine, and Ebright Creeks. During the last 15 years the number of adults returning to their natal (birthplace) tributaries has generally been less than 500.



Paul Kaiser of Quilcene NFH prepares a tray for the arrival of Kokanee eggs



Creeks used for spawning, the Ebright, Pine Lake, Lewis, and Laughing Jacobs Creeks

Supplementation Plan

To improve kokanee survival, gametes (eggs and milt) will be collected from spawning kokanee in Lake Sammamish tributaries. Fertilized eggs will be incubated at Quilcene NFH or Issaquah State Hatchery. During the “eyed-egg” stage, eggs will be reared in a system of recirculating incubators located at Issaquah State Hatchery. The recirculation incubators will use water from each egg batches’ stream of origin. Newly hatched fish will be released to their natal stream. All steps of the program will be designed to minimize the influence of domestication and thereby allow natural environmental processes to drive the propagation of the Lake Sammamish kokanee population.



Weighing Kokanee eggs at Quilcene NFH

Partners

Partners to this program include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), FWS Olympia Fish Health Center, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Quilcene National Fish Hatchery, Issaquah State Hatchery, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, City of Sammamish, City of Issaquah, Washington State Parks, other local municipalities, Trout Unlimited, and Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery.



City of Issaquah, Washington

